

DK-US040366

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Tadashi SAO et al. : Patent Art Unit: 3744
Serial No.: 10/580,909 : Confirmation No. 6843
Filed: May 30, 2006 :
For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND AN AIR :
CONDITIONER PROVIDED THEREWITH :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH CERTIFICATION

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Copies of the non-U.S. patents are attached.

I hereby certify that each item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

No fee is believed to be required in view of the above certification. However, Applicants authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge payment of the Petition fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) *if required* and any other fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 3-37333 appears to disclose a refrigerant branching pipe joint having flexible branched parts 27B-E.

Respectfully submitted,

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